

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Florida governor pens thanks for Southern Baptist efforts

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles has sent an open letter commending Southern Baptists for their efforts helping the victims of Hurricane Andrew.

In the open letter Chiles called Southern Baptist relief efforts "a great inspiration" and "abundant proof of the great compassion of Southern Baptists."

In an accompanying letter to the Florida Baptist Witness, Chiles noted "Southern Baptists from throughout the United States have been a valued source of help and inspiration to the victims of Hurricane Andrew."

During the past five weeks since Hurricane Andrew ripped through south Dade County, Southern Baptists provided 3 mil-



LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor
THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

Dear Southern Baptists:

The very early and continuing presence of the Southern Baptist relief effort in storm ravaged South Florida has been overwhelming. The selfless gift of time and material resources has been a blessing to Andrew's helpless victims and a great inspiration to those of us charged with caring for Florida's citizens.

The millions of hot meals served, the medical assistance, hands willing to serve in any capacity and the countless kind acts are abundant proof of the great compassion of Southern Baptists.

I want to extend my personal thanks, along with those of all Floridians, for your generous help. May God bless you as you continue your ministry in our state and across the world.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Lawton Chiles
LAWTON CHILES

lion meals to south Florida residents from 11 mass feeding locations and repairing homes and roofs.

tions, said Cecil Seagle, Florida Baptist Brotherhood director. The mass feeding units and the teams of volunteers came from Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Kentucky.

Teams from Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida fed their first meals within 24 hours after the hurricane struck. In most of the locations, Southern Baptists were the first to respond with any relief. Currently seven feeding sites are being utilized.

At least 10,000 Southern Baptist volunteers from as far as North Dakota and Michigan toiled in 90-degree temperatures preparing meals, distributing water, canned foods, medicine, and baby



GLENDAL, Fla. — Bill McCreary, left, Ripley, and Bill Lee, Brandon, cook bacon for victims of Hurricane Andrew. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)



Royal Ambassadors from West McComb Church recently participated in a 10-mile Walk-A-Thon that raised over \$552 for victims of Hurricane Andrew in south Florida. Participants included (back row, from left) Tim Stamps, Tommy May, Mikey Godbold, Mike Graham, (third row, from left) Chris Sharp, Ned Chapman, Michael McKinley, (second row, from left) Ben McKinley, J.R. Alexander, Lewis Beesley, Landon Stamps, (front row, from left) J.P. Sharp, Michael Chapman, Chris Austin, and Jeremy Hoatland. James Sanders is pastor.

Bush, Clinton reps differ on church-state issues

WASHINGTON (BP) — Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party oppose aid to religious schools, while George Bush and the Republican Party favor educational vouchers parents can use in such schools and say are constitutional.

This was one of the disagreements on church-state issues expressed by representatives from both presidential campaigns during a session of the recent national conference of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The Clinton campaign was represented by Robert Drinan, a Catholic priest and law professor at Georgetown University, while the president was represented by Herb Ellingwood, national co-chairman of the Bush/Quayle evangelical coalition who works full-time as a volunteer in the campaign.

The Democrats maintain the church-state positions they have held since the 1940s, Drinan said.

The Democratic ticket of Clinton and Al Gore opposes aid to church-related elementary and secondary schools, favors the Supreme Court's decisions on prayer in schools and supports the free exercise of religion.

The Republican ticket of Bush and Dan Quayle supports vouchers for low- and middle-income families to use in religious and other private schools and endorses a voluntary prayer amendment, Ellingwood said. He did not address free exercise of religion.

President Bush "believes that there should be choice in education, so that there's competition," Ellingwood said. "George Bush believes that monies given to parents rather than to the schools, wherever the parents choose, is certainly not a violation of the separation of church and state."

The Bush administration's school-choice initiative, known as the G.I. Bill for Children, "would not be available to rich parents," Ellingwood said.



GLENDAL, Fla. — Jim Didiak, left, Mississippi Brotherhood consultant, and William Wright, pastor of Goss Church, Columbia, prepare food for victims of Hurricane Andrew. After returning from Louisiana, volunteers from Mississippi assisted the Tennessee Brotherhood disaster relief team in Florida.



GLENDAL, Fla. — Don Collier of Kingston, Tenn. (center), Jason Simpson (right), and Charles Shaw (left), both of Eupora, prepare biscuits to serve to victims of Hurricane Andrew. Baptist relief units, first on the scene in many locations, provided at least three million meals. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The Nashville Scene

The September meeting of the Executive Committee was the most varied session in recent years. In a spirit of respect and appreciation Harold Bennett's retirement took place. He has served Baptists well through the years and it was a well-deserved banquet in his honor.

Twenty-four hours later Morris H. Chapman was installed as the fifth chief executive of the powerful Executive Committee. Austin Crouch, Duke McCall, Porter Routh, and Bennett have all served since 1927. The Sunday School Board's Van Ness auditorium was filled for a service of praise and installation. Telegrams were read from Billy Graham and Vice President Dan Quayle. Deacons from New Mexico and Texas commended their former pastor to the task. SBC President Ed Young and Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Church, Memphis, affirmed the present and presented the challenge of the future. Guests from Kosciusko, Clinton, and other Mississippi cities were there to wish the best for this native son.

Meanwhile, the committees and sub-committees hammered out motions to be presented. Much was routine and motions referred from the SBC meeting were usually defeated or no action was taken. They ruled there was no practicable way to develop a

method for voting on SBC issues other than at the annual meeting. They declined again to recommend an amendment on requiring a minimum percentage of Cooperative Program contributions before considering a person for an SBC office. They are studying a registration fee for the SBC and requested the six seminary presidents to study the matter concerning pre-baccalaureate degrees and report in February. The WMU and the Pastors Conference are still welcome to share the convention meeting hall with the SBC.

Morris Chapman is to conduct a comprehensive study to further determine the need for a new national news publication. Hopefully, editors of state Baptist papers would have some input on this. Also, a recommendation was voiced on a change in Bylaw 20 which concerns publicity and news of the convention in cooperation with SBC agencies. Presently it instructs the Executive Committee to appoint a public relations advisory committee made up of representatives from SBC agencies, state conventions, and state papers.

If the recommendation passes, the SBC agencies, state conventions and state papers would be deleted and it would then declare the Executive Committee shall provide a convention relations and

convention news service to interpret and publicize the overall SBC program.

Perhaps we "fleeth when no man pursueth" but this merely gives the Executive Committee more power and cuts out any input from state conventions and state papers. This indicates that the SBC Executive Committee desires less advice from other agencies and state conventions. In effect they have this now.

However, state conventions and denominational papers should be heard prior to major decisions affecting their respective areas. The Executive Committee is the Convention when the Convention is not in session. According to constitution and bylaws they now have broad powers but apparently it is not quite enough.

The real power of the SBC is the local church. Authority should flow from these churches to associations, state conventions, and to the SBC level. It is a tragic picture when we envision the reverse of this pattern.

The recommendations of the Executive Committee will no doubt be passed by the SBC in Houston. If we get a national news magazine, doing away with input from state conventions and state papers, we could well see the day when the course of the river is reversed.

Guest opinion...

Is Mississippi making a bad bet on lottery?

By William B. Alexander

More and more, Mississippi is depending on gambling to fund essential services of state and local governments. Responsible citizens understand that responsible taxation is the price we pay for essential services. The lottery is not an efficient tax. It is unstable, with state budget leaders unsure as to the amount of proceeds from this tax.

Winners in the lottery will get 45-50 cents from each dollar bet. It will take about 20 cents to administer the lottery, which will leave 30-35 cents to go into the state treasury. Compare this to sales or income taxes, where at least 95% of the money goes into the treasury, and you see that it is a very inefficient tax.

The PEER Committee has estimated that the lottery will bring into the treasury between \$10-20 million. If the lottery brings in \$20 million, this will amount to only one percent of the total general fund budget of the state. Should

the state go into the lottery business for so little money?

The funds generated by the lottery are not earmarked for education, but many states have done this and if Mississippi does earmark it for education, it will be hurtful rather than helpful. The superintendents of education in California and Florida, after the lottery had been in effect in those states for about a year, said that they wished their states had never passed lotteries because the legislatures of those states reduced appropriations for schools in the same amount that the lottery brought in.

The job of government is to protect people and not to exploit them. Federal, state, and local governments protect people with the Armed Forces, FBI, Highway Patrol, drug enforcement, and police/fire protection. The lottery does not protect people; it exploits people and preys on their weaknesses. Studies show that people

with the lowest 10% of income buy 50% of the lottery tickets. The lottery is targeted toward the less educated, the poor, and minorities.

After California adopted its lottery, grocery chain Holiday Quality Foods had an ad that said they sold \$1 million in lottery tickets and their food business during the same period had declined by \$1 million. The ad went on to say, "Morally we feel it is wrong for us to offer our customer the opportunity to gamble with their food dollars, and therefore we will no longer be selling lottery tickets."

In Florida, grocery chain Winn-Dixie stopped selling tickets in its 471 stores because it created long lines and confusion at the cash register, driving away grocery customers.

The lottery encourages people to gamble. The American Psychiatric Association says there are eight million compulsive gamblers in America. According to the February (See **BAD BET** on page 10)

Establish justice in the gate
(Amos 5:15, RSV)



Observe World Hunger Day
October 11, 1992
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Observe World Hunger Day...

"Establish justice in the gate"

One-sided religion and crushing hunger are as commonplace today as when the shepherd of Tekoa roared like a lion his message of the Lord to the Israelites. We would do well to hear the word from Amos.

The Old Testament prophet charged that the marketplace was thoroughly corrupt. The ephah, the container for measuring grain, was smaller than normal, cheating the consumers. The shekel, the bar for the balancing scales, was made heavier than usual, taking advantage of the customers. The merchants sold chaff with wheat (Amos 8:5), impoverishing the diet of the poor.

Amos condemned the lifestyle of luxury. Their lifestyle oppressed the poor and crushed the needy (Amos 4:1). It perverted justice, which Amos said was as dangerous as men making horses run upon rocks (Amos 6:12).

The root of injustice was shallow religion, said Amos. Piety was widespread but separate from ethics. The people gave burnt cereal and peace offerings. They made sweet sounds of worship. They held solemn assemblies. But Amos said the Lord hated their empty acts of worship, despised their feasts, and took no delight in their special

prayer meetings (Amos 5:21-23).

What the Lord desired was justice! Amos shouted "seek the Lord" (Amos 5:6) and "seek good" (Amos 5:14). Unlike many of the people, Amos knew that true religion and ethics went hand in hand. God-centered, authentic religion issued forth justice in the gate, the entrance to the walled city where elders ruled on cases (Amos 5:15). Amos longed for a society where justice flowed like a spring that never went dry (Amos 5:24).

But what is justice in a hungry world? Micah 6:8 tells us that justice is at the top of the list of what the Lord requires.

Justice must include a tender heart for the poor. It must include a spirit that yearns to alleviate the personal, social, political, and economic forces which keep children hungry, adults unemployed, and the aged chronically ill. Justice is respect for fair play. It is personal righteousness.

Observe World Hunger Day Oct. 11. Pray that true faith and ethics will beat in the hearts of Southern Baptist people. Seek justice in your workplace, city, and state. Seek it in the halls of Congress. Support the hunger ministries of your Foreign and Home Mission boards.

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Eleven trends in church life listed by HMB president

By David Winfrey

ATLANTA (BP) — More innovative churches, less conformity in funding and more ethnic diversity are in store for Southern Baptist churches as they approach the 21st century, the president of the Home Mission Board told state convention leaders.

"It is important for any agency or state convention to be aware of these trends and think positively about how we can adjust to changing times," Larry Lewis said after addressing executive directors of state Baptist conventions.

Lewis said he is often asked if

the denomination is better off today than a decade ago. "I think the answer is both yes and no."

"We lament the stress and the controversy that has polarized us, but at the same time we have seen real progress" in the convention, said Lewis. While most mainline denominations have been losing members and congregations, Southern Baptists have been gaining both, he noted.

Since Bold Mission Thrust started 14 years ago, the denomination has increased from 35,255 churches to 38,2210 churches (plus 5,000

mission congregations); from 345,690 annual baptisms to 396,668 baptisms; and from 13 million members to 15 million members, he said.

Also during that time, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions have more than doubled, he added.

Lewis noted while he doesn't agree with all the changes he discussed with state executives, leaders must honestly acknowledge what is happening in order to

address and deal with the trends.

Those trends, Lewis said, are:

— more emphasis on innovative churches instead of traditional churches.

— more alternative funding and less conformity to one plan.

— more emphasis on the Great Commission and less emphasis on the "great controversy."

— more ethnic diversity and less Anglo homogeneity

— more associations structured by ethnicity than by geography.

— more interdenominational and para-denominational relationships.

— more agency cooperation and less "turfism."

— more satellite churches and less traditional church planting.

— more emphasis on tasks instead of programs.

— more emphasis on volunteers and bivocational workers and less reliance on salaried staff and missionaries.

— more church-based ministries and less denominational-based ministries.

Winfrey is associate director of news and information for HMB.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Criswell offers to become "just another member"

By Toby Druin and Greg Warner

DALLAS (ABP) — Four days after one of its two pastors resigned, First Church, Dallas, learned the other — legendary pulpiteer W.A. Criswell — will curtail his pastoral responsibilities and become "just another member" of the church, Southern Baptists' largest.

Criswell, pastor of the 28,000-member congregation for 48 years, told the congregation Sunday, Oct. 4, he will begin devoting his time to his role as chancellor of the church-owned Criswell College. Whether or not the venerable preacher continues to fill the church's pulpit and bear the title of senior pastor will be left for church leaders to decide, he said.

The church's other pastor, Joel Gregory, who has shared Southern Baptists' most prominent pulpit with Criswell since January 1991, resigned abruptly Sept. 30 because of Criswell's reluctance to leave the pulpit after an agreed-to transition of "a very few months."

But Criswell's apparent change of heart is not expected to coax Gregory back. Gregory told the Baptist Standard of Texas Oct. 2 he is not considering returning to the Dallas pastorate.

The day's events left much ambiguity surrounding the future of First Baptist's pulpit.

Criswell, 82, told the Dallas congregation Oct. 4 his new role at Criswell College is an "answered prayer for me." It apparently signals that Criswell has abandoned his desire — reportedly shared with church leaders in recent days

— to remain in the pulpit of First Church until his 50th anniversary two years from now.

The former staff member said First Church is laboring under "an incredible financial strain" because of its indebtedness, and that financial concerns undoubtedly played a part in Gregory's surprise resignation.

"There is more here than meets the eye," the minister said. Morale among the ministerial staff has been "fairly intense and unsettling" for several months, the former staffer said. Gregory's unrealistic expectations of himself, the staff and the church had led to his frustration when substantial growth did not occur, the minister added.

Church Administrator Tim Hedquist, whom Gregory hired about a year ago, denied rumors the church's indebtedness was found to be worse than previously known. "Everything has been above the table," he said.

Gregory alluded to the church's financial struggles in an interview with the Standard. He rejected the suggestion he might now become president of the Foreign Mission Board. Members of the FMB search committee, which Gregory chairs, asked earlier if they could consider him for the position, but he refused, a committee member told ABP.

Few observers were willing to predict that Gregory will return to the church as pastor. The damage caused by his resignation "cannot" (See CRISWELL on page 8)

State CP gifts one percent off target so far in 1992

Mississippi Baptists are just over 1% off target for Cooperative Program giving in the first three-quarters of the year, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Gifts for 1992 from the 2,000 participating churches in the convention total \$15,988,657. That is just \$202,669 (or 1.25%) less than the pro rata amount of \$16,191,326 required for nine months of the work Mississippi Baptists have

called themselves to do together. The total 1992 Cooperative Program budget is \$21,588,435.

The September total was \$1,953,081, third highest amount for the year, but following a month where giving was \$1,379,898. In August the last day ended on a Monday, delaying many church checks to September.

Mississippi Baptists give 37% of all Cooperative Program gifts to Southern Baptist causes outside the state.

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Joel Gregory's resignation stuns First Church, Dallas

By Herb Hollinger

DALLAS (BP) — Frustrated with lack of progress in the transition of leadership at First Church, Dallas, Joel C. Gregory unexpectedly resigned as pastor during a Wednesday night service.

Gregory, 44, has been pastor of the 28,000-member congregation following his election in November 1990, ostensibly to fill the shoes of W.A. Criswell who will celebrate his 48th anniversary with the church Oct. 4. Criswell, 82, had been designated "senior pastor" and reportedly was planning to retire from the pulpit and spend more time leading Criswell College.

But lack of progress in that transition, in Gregory's understanding, was cited in the surprising announcement Sept. 30 during the regular Wednesday night service. About 300 members were present

when Gregory asked for a "personal privilege" to speak.

His announcement stunned the congregation which, in complete silence, watched Gregory leave the pulpit and the building. He left instructions that he would not be available for several days, with no further clarification provided.

At press time, Gregory had not informed Foreign Mission Board staff officials whether he intends to remain chairman of a search committee seeking a successor for FMB President R. Keith Parks, who retires Oct. 30. Gregory, in the third year of his first four-year term as an FMB trustee, can remain as a trustee as long as he continues to reside in Texas.

Gregory, in his statement to the church, said even though Criswell had handed over day-to-day respon-

sibilities nearly two years ago, the senior pastor continued to lead the church.

"The ultimate agenda," Gregory said, "is the prolonging of the incumbent's ministry rather than the enabling of the new pastor's. None of these things can be a surprise to the informed members of this congregation. In light of these circumstances I immediately and irrevocably submit my resignation."

When it became apparent that Criswell might stay as senior pastor until his 50th anniversary with the church, Gregory made plans to resign and only a few congregational leaders knew about it. They wanted him to work it out with Criswell but Gregory objected to the idea of dealing directly with Criswell to solve the matter.

Hollinger is director, Baptist Press.

Bennett assures SBC of his commitment, prayers

NASHVILLE (BP) — Parallel to his "U.S.A." patriotism, Harold C. Bennett said, "is the Southern Baptist Convention. My denomination."

"I live for it," Bennett told a banquet tribute to his 13-plus years as president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

"I respect the convention. I have committed my life to the convention," the retiring SBC leader said. "And I assure you here tonight that I stand by our convention."

"I believe with all my heart God is not through with Southern Baptists and God is going to bless the work of our convention in the years yet ahead. And I look forward to praying for the convention."

To his successor, Morris Chapman, Bennett added: "I have promised you that I will pray for

you and Jodi (Chapman's wife). And God bless you as you take leadership of a grand and wonderful denomination."

The Sept. 21 retirement dinner, attended by more than 500 people at Nashville's Stouffer Hotel, included testimonials to Bennett and his wife, Phyllis, from sons Jeffrey and Scott; daughter Cynthia Bennett Howard, a Southern Baptist missionary, via video from Swaziland in southern Africa; and numerous familiar names in Southern Baptist life.

Retirement gestures to Bennett included a new Lincoln Town Car, with the Executive Committee still receiving donations for its purchase; a plaque to be placed outside the SBC Building's auditorium "in recognition of the vision and inter-agency leadership" he gave in a seven-floor building

opened in 1985 to house the Executive Committee and six other key SBC entities; letters of commendation from President George Bush and former President Jimmy Carter; and a book of some 300 letters from friends across the SBC.

State Baptist conventions added various gifts, such as two rocking chairs and a book autographed by noted southern writer Eudora Welty from Mississippi Baptists; two passes to Disney World from Florida Baptists; \$150 in shredded money from Baptists in Washington; a "Field of Dreams" video from Iowa where the popular film was shot; and an 1884 silver dollar from Nevada Baptists of silver mined and minted in the state.

In retirement, Bennett said he initially plans to teach courses on the SBC at Southern Seminary for two semesters.



Arkabutla pursues missions

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Missions" was the theme of the Acteen Coronation and GA recognition service held at Arkabutla Church in Arkabutla. Participating in the service were (front row, from left) Annie Lentz, Jessica Roberson, (second row, from left) Becky Twilley, Daniel Cavanaugh, Amanda Patrick, Peggy Pope, Rebecca Lentz, Melanie Johnson, Amanda Scott, (back row, from left) Stephen Dilatush, Amanda Taylor, Kelly Maughan, Mary Ann Twilley, Pam Cavanaugh, Peter Dilatush, and Carol Maughan. Charles Cavanaugh is pastor.

Southwest Baptist University ousts three more employees

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP) — Three Southwest Baptist University employees who acknowledged being part of efforts to block the election of a proposed candidate for president of the school have been dismissed.

Acting president Wayne Gott announced Sept. 14 that Jerald Andrews and Patty Edwards had been terminated effective immediately. Jo Ann Shaddy opted to resign.

Andrews served as senior executive vice president for external affairs. Edwards was director of major events and university advancement projects. Shaddy worked as administrative assistant and assistant director of the Walton National Literacy Center at SBU.

Each acknowledged assisting former chancellor James E. Sells

in distributing anonymous letters attributed to students and faculty in efforts to block the election of a trustee search committee nominee for president. Trustees announced Sells' relationship with the university had been terminated Sept. 3.

On Sept. 9 two SBU teacher organizations, the Faculty Chamber, and the Association of Tenured Professors, called for the dismissal of the three employees. The Student Government Association also adopted a resolution calling for the dismissal of all employees associated with the actions.

On Sept. 18, Gott announced that Ken Edmondson had been named acting vice president for university advancement and would be assuming many of the responsibilities previously assigned to Andrews.

Annuity Board freezes rates, reveals "Catastrophic 2500"

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will make no rate changes in the Church Comprehensive or the Seminarian Comprehensive Medical plans for the first six months of 1993, according to Joel Mathis, senior vice president for insurance administration at the Annuity Board.

An improvement in recent claims experience helped the board to avoid a rate change, Mathis said, and he credited the plans' managed-care and preferred-provider features with helping avoid a rate increase.

Churches now have accurate budget planning information for the first six months of 1993, but Mathis cautioned budget planners that other factors could increase rates, such as a birthday that moves a participant into a higher rate bracket,

or the addition of a dependent.

The board announced Aug. 4 that it will base the price of the two plans on the claims experience of participants in each state "...to bring more fairness to the rate structure and to protect against shifting losses from one state to another...."

Mathis urged participants who feel they can't afford the comprehensive plans to consider enrolling in one of the two lower-rate "catastrophic" plans available in January 1993. The two plans, which will be available at reduced rates, will feature higher deductibles and limited benefits.

The Catastrophic 2500 plan will cost 40% less each month than comprehensive, with a \$2,500 deductible. Catastrophic 1000 will cost 30% less, with a \$1,000 deductible.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Sept. 3 issue of the Baptist Record: Jackson: Griffin Street; Kemper: Salem; and Webster: Calvary.

Kentucky Baptists may opt out of Cooperative Program support

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Kentucky Baptists will vote in November on a proposal that would allow churches to participate in their state convention whether or not those congregations contribute financially to the work of the national Southern Baptist Convention.

The proposal would change the way Kentucky Baptists define denominational cooperation.

In order to qualify for full representation in the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention, current guidelines require that a church contribute to the Cooperative Program, the unified budget that supports Baptist ministries on both the state and national levels.

In recent years, however, some Kentucky Baptists dissatisfied with the current leadership of the SBC and its national agencies have protested that policy, saying it forces them to fund national ministries they don't support.

The compromise proposal would put in place a two-pronged formula for representation that accounts for contributions to either the Cooperative Program or the state convention's budget alone.

The proposal was approved in mid-September by a study committee that has been examining the issue since 1990. It will be presented to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for a vote Nov. 10-11.

Under the present policy, a church that is in "friendly cooperation" with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and is a "bona fide contributor" to the state convention's work is granted one messenger to the annual state convention held each fall. One additional messenger (up to 10) is allowed for each 250 church members over 100 or for each \$250 contributed to the Cooperative Program.

Most of the money contributed to the Cooperative Program by Kentucky Baptist churches is fun-

neled to the state convention budget for use in Kentucky (63%). The rest (37%) is forwarded to the national CP budget, which funds 20 SBC agencies.

Since only unrestricted, or "undesignated," contributions count as Cooperative Program gifts, disgruntled Kentucky churches have not been permitted to withhold the portion of their contributions earmarked for the national CP budget. However, the new proposal would grant equal participation on the state convention level to churches that support only Baptist work in Kentucky.

The proposal is expected to draw opposition from fundamental-conservatives, who now control the national CP budget and the SBC agencies.

Participation in the national Southern Baptist Convention held each June is open only to those churches that contribute to the Cooperative Program.

RTVC phone counselors say new channel calls for 24-hour help

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — It would be hard to convince Pat Wooley that eight is less than 24.

Pat Wooley, soft-spoken director of counseling services for the Radio and Television Commission, is shouting for help these days, scrambling to stretch resources to meet the expected increase in counseling calls when the ACTS network begins broadcasting eight hours daily instead of 24.

Wooley has sent out an urgent request for volunteers to meet the increase in counseling calls expected as a result of ACTS' move to share a satellite with VISN.

Some see the move as a compromise to share a channel with what has been one of ACTS' chief competitors in the cable marketplace. Some have seen the move as a step back because of the fewer hours.

Wooley sees it in terms of a thousand new cable systems and a jump from 8.2 million subscribers to 21 million and a total potential audience of 56.7 million people. And to counseling staff, according to the 18-year veteran employee, it means an incredible crunch on overloaded and understaffed phones in RTVC's counseling center.

A telephone company survey recently reported only about 13% of callers are able to get through to counselors now, Wooley said. "What will it be when we add over a thousand new cable systems Oct. 1?"

About a year ago, Wooley enlisted more volunteers and began posting the 800 number to "The Baptist Hour" and the number of calls more than doubled. Again this spring, she said, Richard Jackson's program was aired on Tuesday mornings and the numbers spiraled upward again.

The 3,242 calls this year have

included 108 who prayed to receive Christ, 153 who rededicated their lives, and 157 who prayed to seek assurance of their salvation. The remaining 2,824 were "just hurting and needed to know someone cared," Wooley said.

About 20% of all callers become involved in longer-term, in-depth correspondence counseling by professional staff, she added. "We don't operate our phones in a 'boiler-room' atmosphere and we don't let computers decide what to say in our correspondence," Wooley said.

"There is Douglas, who tested HIV-positive about a year ago. His girlfriend left him and he feels like everything is falling apart. He wants to be a Christian but is afraid God won't accept him, and he can't bear another rejection. He calls frequently to share his fear of being alone, just to talk with someone who won't judge him."

— "Jane and her husband are

just beginning a Christian walk. They are confused by the different sects who have tried to influence them. She said, 'I wasn't even watching your show, but somehow we flipped to that channel.' When she saw our 800 number on the screen, Jane cried, 'Maybe that's somewhere we can get some help!' and dashed to a pay phone to call. We've shared Christian materials and helped them get involved in a good church."

— "Rose had been attending a local church but after hearing the program she realized she needed to make a personal commitment to Christ. She said, 'I just repented of my sins and asked the Lord to take me back. I just felt like I needed to confess it to someone and I saw the number on the screen. Can you tell me how to get closer to Christ?' Through correspondence we have disciplined Rose and encouraged her commitment."

Criswell College names Melick as new president

DALLAS (BP) — Richard R. Melick Jr., professor and chairman of the New Testament and Greek departments of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, has been elected president of Criswell College by the Dallas school's trustees.

Melick, 47, will succeed Paige Patterson, president from 1975-92. Patterson is now president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Trustees gave unanimous approval to Melick's selection Sept. 23.

Melick has been on the faculty of Mid-America Seminary, which is not a Southern Baptist Conven-

tion-affiliated school, since 1983. He previously was a faculty member at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Miami Christian College; and Columbia Bible College, Columbia, S.C.

A graduate of Columbia Bible College, he received a master of divinity degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois and a doctor of philosophy degree at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Melick is a New Testament consulting editor for the New American Commentary, published by Broadman Press.

Dirty side of state-run lotteries coming to light across country

Second in a series

While state-run lotteries are touted by proponents as everything from taxpayers' salvation to harmless entertainment, the dark underbelly of this sinister creature is gradually being exposed across the United States.

From California, where a grocery chain found that customers gambled away family food money on the lottery, to Florida, where the legislature routinely reduces state education support by the amount brought in by the lottery, thoughtful people are asking hard questions about the sizable gap between lottery promises and lottery reality.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, one of the strongest opponents of the proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot to remove the constitutional prohibition against a lottery in the state, makes the following points about lotteries, many of which have been realized too late in many areas of the country:

— A lottery changes the values of the state from work ethic to "chance ethic."

— A lottery diverts dollars from goods and services to lottery ticket sales.

By William H. Perkins Jr.

— The lottery as state monopoly competes with free enterprise. The state becomes a direct competitor for the consumer dollar, thereby depressing legitimate businesses.

— The state becomes a bookie. The New Republic magazine recently said, "We're appalled at the spectacle of government promoting vice like a carnival barker."

— Illegal gambling continues to flourish in locations where legalized lotteries were sold to the public as a way to get rid of the illegal games.

— Of all games of chance, lotteries offer the worst odds of winning.

— A lottery is uneven and unpredictable as a source of state revenue. Companies that rate the riskiness of government bond issues often find such unpredictable revenues more damaging to bond ratings than no revenue sources at all.

— Since the state sets the rules for the lottery, it suffers a built-in temptation to "tilt" the game in its favor, thereby plotting against its own citizens to increase the odds to its advantage.

— The lottery is a regressive tax that exploits the poor. In Maryland, the poorest one-third of the population buys 60% of the tickets. A Delaware study found no lottery

outlets in an upper-income neighborhood of over 17,500 people, while there was one lottery outlet for about every 2,000 people in the poorest neighborhoods.

— The lottery creates a new generation of compulsive gamblers because it is so convenient.

"Nov. 3 is the day that the voters of Mississippi will determine the direction of our state for the next several decades. As voters, we need to understand that we will not have the opportunity to decide on how the lottery money would be spent. The one and only decision the voters will have will be to remove the present [constitutional] amendment against a state lottery," said Paul Griffin Jones II, CAC executive director.

Jones believes a responsible voter is one who understands that fact.

"It is completely erroneous for people to be told that they are voting to legalize a state lottery in order to raise tax revenue for education or some other worthy cause. People must be informed and educated about the false promises of those who are promoting a state-operated lottery," he said.

For more information, contact CAC at (601) 968-3800.

Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics (CARE) is a group of Mississippians organized to fight the lottery vote. CARE rallies scheduled around the state include:

— Columbus; 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15; Holiday Inn, 506 Highway 45 North.

— Gulfport; 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8; Holiday Inn Airport, 9415 Highway 49 North.

— Jackson; 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22; Holiday Inn North, 5075 I-55 North.

— Meridian; 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13; Holiday Inn South, Highway 45 South.

CARE can be contacted at (601) 355-1888.

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Royal Ambassadors of Big Creek Church, Calhoun Association, recently held a Bike-A-Thon for World Hunger Relief, collecting pledges of \$146. Participants were (back row, from left) Nathan Ward, Jason Costin, Brad Ward, Chuck Terry, Drew Costin, (front row, from left) Brent Warner, Scott Coleman, Dee Harrison, Scott Willis, and Justin White. Dwight Brown is pastor.

CBF promotion scheduled in Jackson October 16, 17

Mississippi Baptists promoting the new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will meet in Jackson Oct. 16-17 to organize and plan missions support. "Baptist Ideas Worth Something" is the theme of the gathering, according to Joe Tuten, retired former pastor of Jackson's Calvary Church.

"Grass roots Baptists are disturbed by the narrow spirit of exclusivity that now pervades the Southern Baptist Convention at the national level," says Tuten. "The Fellowship is a vehicle through which mainstream Mississippi Baptists can continue to fund traditional Baptist missions work without endorsing a new fundamentalist leadership bent upon excluding them from denominational participation," he adds.

The SBC has been in turmoil since 1979, the year fundamental/conservatives began an organized political effort to seize control of the convention by dominating annual SBC elections. A succession of SBC presidents over the past decade have used the appointive powers of that office to fill SBC boards and commissions with trustees and agency heads sympathetic to the takeover, to the exclusion of more moderate mainstream Baptists who previously served the denomination.

Many in the current SBC leadership charge the Fellowship is a "new denomination," and warn that the SBC will be hurt if moderate Baptists fund missions through the CBF.

"The political conquest is complete, and the takeover group now wants traditional Baptists to keep quiet and continue sending money to Nashville (national SBC) like nothing has changed, or to leave the convention altogether," says Greg Snowden, a lay member of the First Church, Meridian. "But we're just as much Southern Baptist as they are, and if we feel led to support missions work nationally and internationally through the Fellowship, then we have every right as free Christians to do so, even while continuing strong support for the Mississippi Baptist Convention and our local associations."

Unlike many other states, Mississippi in the past has escaped serious political conflict at the state level. This may soon change, however, as there have been published reports that fundamental/conservative organizers met in August in Memphis to coordinate plans to elect "conservative" candidates in all the state conventions, and to share "how-to" tactics for extending fundamental/conservative political influence to local churches and associations.

"Certainly we are concerned that some folks for reasons of their own may be plotting to take over our state convention, and we urge all Mississippi Baptists to actively oppose this if it is attempted," says Jon Doler, pastor of the First Church, Leland. "However, the Fellowship itself is organized for missions, not politics."

Rebecca Wiggs, a layperson in Jackson's Northminster Church, agrees. "Baptists are tired of politics and controversy," says Wiggs. "The Fellowship exists to ensure that important missions work does not go undone because of political fallout from the SBC takeover."

According to Marvin Bond, a lay member of Starkville's First Church, members of CBF intend to continue financial support of the Mississippi convention. "The CBF giving plans are set up to allow churches and individuals to support CBF missions with money that otherwise would go to Nashville, but their allocations for state and local missions can be the same as always," says Bond.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention already is receiving payments directly from the Fellowship's Atlanta headquarters, representing state missions allocations from Mississippi churches choosing to give some or all of their national and international missions offerings to CBF instead of the SBC.

The Oct. 16-17 Jackson meeting will feature messages from national CBF leaders Patricia Ayers of Texas; Cecil Sherman of Georgia; and an address from Frank Stagg of Bay Saint Louis, retired professor of New Orleans Seminary.

— Compiled by Greg Snowden

Carey College will host small church conference

A regional Small Church Leadership Conference will take place Saturday, Oct. 17, at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

The conference is designed for leaders in churches with 150 or fewer enrolled in Sunday School.

The program, which is from 9 a.m. to noon, will offer training for leaders in 16 areas. Churches planning to take leaders are requested to register with their associational office.

Conferences will be provided for pastors, Brotherhood administrative and Baptist Men's leaders; RA leaders; church pianists; leaders of grades 1-6 combined choirs; Discipleship Training; general officers, adult, youth, children's, and preschool leaders; Sunday School: general officers, adult, youth, children's, and preschool workers; and all WMU directors and leaders combined.

Southwestern selects Sanchez to lead growth institute

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP). — Daniel Sanchez has been named director of the new church growth institute at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern since 1983, was

appointed to the director's position by Russell H. Dilday, seminary president.

Since 1980, Southwestern has promoted church growth programs through the World Mission/Evangelism Center. However, Dilday

said the new church growth institute will allow a more concentrated approach. The World Mission/Evangelism Center will continue promotion home and foreign mission work.

After serving as a missionary to the Republic of Panama, Sanchez was assistant director in the Home Mission Board's Language Mission Department. He also served as evangelism director and state missions director for the Baptist Convention of New York.

New Goodhope celebrates 125th anniversary

New Goodhope Church, Pulaski (Scott), will observe its 125th anniversary as a church, Oct. 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be no night services.

Paul Smith is pastor.



An 18-wheeler loaded with relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Andrew recently departed Greenville bound for south Louisiana. The Triple L Club and members of Southside Church in Greenville joined civic organizations and concerned citizens in collecting the supplies. In addition to money donations, the vehicle was filled with furniture, food, water, linens, clothes, shoes, and toys. Earl Ezell is pastor.

Physical condition, he says, may limit spiritual activity

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A person's physical condition often determines what he can do with spiritual or mental gifts, but many Christians are too lazy to maintain their bodies, according to a Southern Baptist fitness specialist.

Tommy Yessick, coordinator of the program services section in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Recreation Department, led an early morning stretching and conditioning program during the Sun-

day School Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, July 25-Aug. 1.

Yessick said overweight persons and those in physically poor condition are evident at Ridgecrest as at any Baptist gathering.

The Annuity Board, the Church Recreation Department, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Cooper Clinic in Dallas have attempted to enroll Baptist ministers in a fitness plan with limited suc-

cess.

But, Yessick said, Baptist ministers are not alone in their flabbiness, lack of conditioning, and unwillingness to deal with it.

People can control 53% of the physical factors that impact their quality of life by paying attention to exercise, eating, stress, and relaxation, Yessick said.

"Only 47% of physical condition is attributed to environment, health care, and heredity — things you can't change," Yessick said.

He provides a spiritual perspective to physical conditioning for people who say they try to be Christ-like. Christ walked everywhere he went and one day walked 50 miles and on another occasion walked 120 miles in three days, Yessick pointed out.

"He had to have been physically fit to do the things he did. Remember, Christ grew up working in a carpenter's shop that didn't have Skil saws," Yessick said.

"If you can't do anything else — walk," he said. "Walk a minimum of three times a week for 30-45 minutes. Four or five times a week would be better."

Next, Yessick suggests modifying diet. "Nobody needs to go on a diet. They need to change their diet. You need to change your eating habits and exercise to control weight."



Both physically fit and overweight, poorly conditioned persons are represented in the U.S. population and also in Southern Baptist gatherings. Tommy Yessick, coordinator of the program services section, BSSB, says poor physical condition can limit a person's spiritual activity and mental health. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Healing, recovering possible from homosexual behavior

By Linda Lawson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Rick Hughes delivers a message of warning and of hope, a message based in personal experience and pain: "God is going to judge homosexual behavior, but he's not going to judge it any differently than any other sin."

Even as God offers forgiveness to people who confess their sins and ask forgiveness, so he also offers healing and recovery, Hughes, director of Eleutheros Ministries of Winter Park, Fla., told participants in a seminar on redemptive ministry with homosexuals during the Sept. 4-7 Labor Day Weekend Single Adult Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

A Bible college and seminary graduate who had struggled with homosexual tendencies since age 11, Hughes acknowledged in 1988 to his wife, Gwen, his homosexual behavior and agreed to seek help.

In the intervening four years, he has received therapy, earned a master's degree in counseling and now directs a Christian support ministry for others struggling with homosexuality.

Hughes differentiates between homosexual orientation and homosexual behavior. "I don't think the Bible talks about homosexual orientation," he said. "It talks about homosexual behavior."

He believes the tendency toward

homosexual behavior occurs when a child does not receive from his same sex parent during the first six years of life the kind of love and nurture that will enable him to feel affirmed in his sexual identity.

"Not getting needs met in the first six years doesn't make persons homosexual, but it sets them up to be confused and to make invalid decisions," Hughes said.

Between the ages of six and 12, children focus on same sex peer group relationships. Boys tend to play with boys, and girls with girls.

"Those who didn't get proper help in the first six years don't know which side of the playground to go to," Hughes said.

Then when healthy children move on between ages 12 and 15 to develop opposite sex relationships, those who were deprived in the first six years are "still stuck back in trying to learn what it means to be a boy (or girl)," he added.

He advocates redemptive Christian ministries that help people go back in their lives, discover problems rooted in their childhood and then move forward toward maturity and healing. He offers his own experience as testimony that healing is possible.

Abandoned by his father at 18 months, he was never allowed to

ask questions about his father. Also, he was sexually abused as a child. His marriage represented an attempt to escape his homosexual desires, a route Hughes said many take.

His wife's refusal to give up on him and the help he received have given him a new life dedicated to helping others.

"Can I fall again? Absolutely," wrote Hughes in a brochure describing his struggle with homosexual behavior. "Am I still tempted? Believe it! Is my identity defined by my feelings? No! Do I have to fall? No way!"

"The fact that I can deal with my temptation in a mature way while experiencing a fulfilled opposite-sex relationship with my wife and healthy same-sex relationships with other men is evidence that God is doing a work in my life," he continued.

The recovery process normally takes two to three years, but the struggle is a life-long one, Hughes said. However, those who get help move forward in the maturing process, something he believes would benefit all Christians.

The Labor Day Weekend Single Adult Conference was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

Lawson writes for BSSB.



Arkadelphians minister in Missouri

Mission team members from Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, are pictured preparing to return from a week's mission project in Eagleville, Mo. Left to right, they are: front row, Cameron Glenn, Dora Miles, Mary Nell Carpenter, Nell Harbour, Jackie Roberts; back row, Grover Glenn, Arkadelphia pastor, Stanley Frazier, Vester Miles, Wayne Mayfield, Sonny Carpenter, Kenny Gressett, Hal Harbour, and David Roberts. The Mississippians framed and roofed a pastor's study, a nursery, and two restrooms. They also conducted Vacation Bible School with an average of 58 people attending each night.

Loyalty low, skepticism high among "Busters" generation

GLENDALE, Calif. (ABP) — Tired of hearing about the Baby Boomers? Get ready for a new label to describe the second-largest generation in American history: the Baby Busters.

Boomers are the 79 million people born during America's "baby boom" between 1946 and 1964. Busters are the product of the subsequent "baby bust" years between 1965 and 1983, when Boomers themselves started having offspring.

A new study by the Barna Research Group shows there are significant differences between the two groups. The study is published in the book, *The Invisible Generation*.

While Boomers were busy changing society, they left Busters to be the first generation raised from birth in the "new" society they created, the study notes.

Things have been changed for Busters rather than by them, the study says. As a result, Busters' perspectives are more likely to be shaped by their surroundings than to shape their surroundings.

Findings of the Barna research include:

— 38% of all adult Busters con-

sider themselves "stressed out."

— Busters are more concerned with leisure time and friendships than Boomers, who place considerably more value on work and "getting ahead."

— Busters demonstrate even less institutional loyalty than Boomers. Only half the Busters who attend church said they attend the same church each time they go.

— Busters are 30% less likely to attend church than older Americans; 50% less likely to attend religious education programs such as Sunday School.

"For the Builders — the Boomers' parents — the rallying points were surviving the Great Depression and World War II," noted George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group. "For the Boomers, it was rebellion against traditional ways of doing things, from traditional music and lifestyles to government and war."

"The Busters too want to rebel in some ways against the manner in which their Boomer parents raised them. The problem is they don't know what to rebel to."

In short, Barna said, "Busters are very much a generation still in search of themselves."



Growth proof times three

Slayden Church, Lamar, recently had a rash of twin births among its membership. Three sets of twins born within six weeks of one another are pictured, left to right, with their parents: Thad and Carolyn Riley, and sons Ethan and Evan; Rachel Hurdle and sons Joey and Jordan; and former members Jimmy and Edwina Carpenter, with Kyle and Kayla.

Jackson clinic offers help to "insuranceless" people

By Teresa Dickens

The individuals are young and old and represent a variety of cultural backgrounds. At one time, many of them had good jobs with adequate medical benefits. They took pride in being able to pay their own way.

But things have changed. Now they live on limited incomes. They earn enough money to make them ineligible for government benefits, but not enough to pay for adequate medical insurance coverage. Routine medical check-

ups, eye exams, and dental care are luxuries on their budgets.

At least one Jackson-area ministry is seeking to help people who find themselves in the above situation. The Crestwood Clinic for Christ, which began three years ago, provides free general medical, dental, and eye care services to individuals living in central Mississippi. It is located adjacent to Crestwood Baptist Mission (but not a part of the mission), and operates through dona-

tions of money, equipment, supplies, and time by area Christian medical and non-medical personnel.

Along with the professional services, volunteers also attempt to meet the spiritual needs of patients. Distributing tracts and other Christian literature, counseling, and leading devotions with waiting patients are among the ways volunteers have shared their faith.

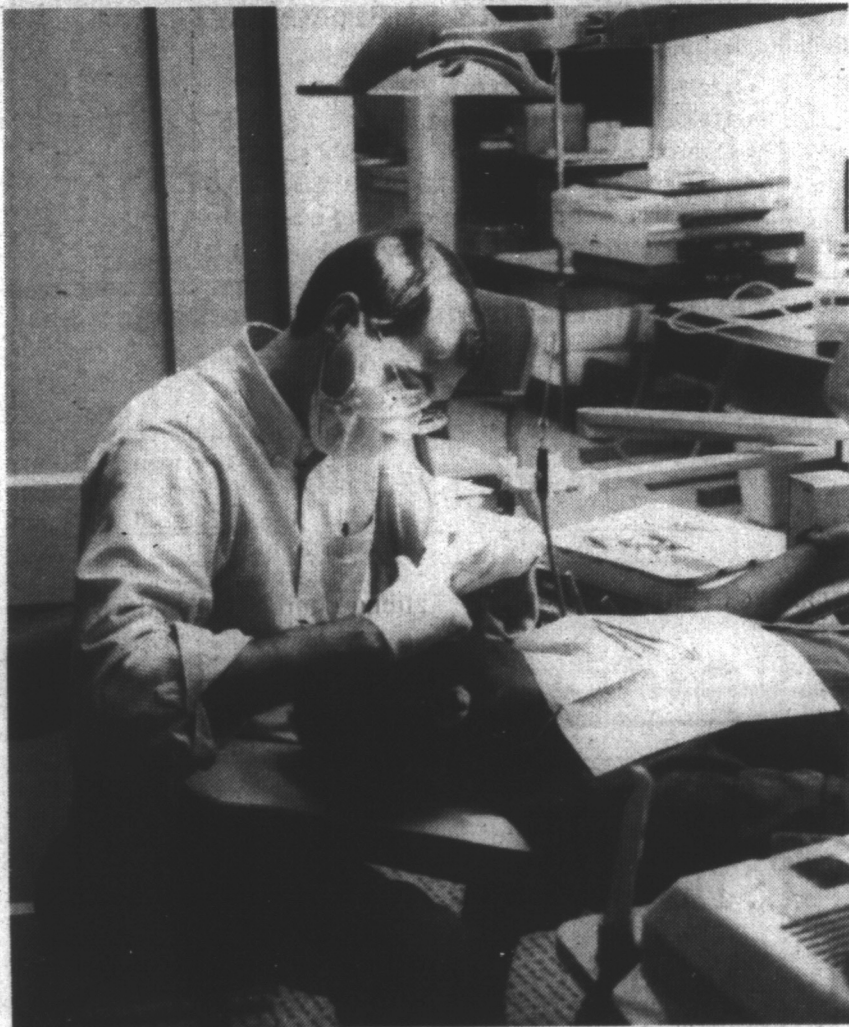
"Our ultimate goal is to communicate the gospel message, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ," said Bill Cockrell, the clinic's director of ministries. "Meeting the needs of people is the way we open the door."

"But," he continued, "we have reached our limit. We need additional medical and non-medical volunteers, updated equipment, and a stronger financial base if the ministry is to continue to grow. If we were to increase our patient load any more, we would be overrun."

One of the clinic's most critical needs is new ophthalmology equipment, explained Cockrell, a member of First Church, Jackson. "If we had more modern equipment, we could recruit additional ophthalmologists. But we do not have the money to buy equipment, therefore the services we can provide are very limited."

Along with equipment and personnel, the clinic also has a variety of other needs, Cockrell said. Among them are: non-narcotic medication, medical and dental supplies, office help, general maintenance worker, office and cleaning supplies, and spiritual counselors. Monetary gifts also are accepted.

Individuals or churches interested in helping the clinic can contact Cockrell at 1625 Bailey Ave., Jackson, MS 39203; phone 354-4648 or 957-1622.



Craig E. Crosland, D.M.D., a member of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, volunteers his skills one afternoon a week at Jackson's Crestwood Clinic for Christ. The clinic provides individuals who are uninsured with general medical, dental, and eye care services.

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Child evangelist Pam Bell (above photo front row, second from left) talks with Pam Harris (back row, right) and her GA group from Oxford. Helen Price (back row, left), interim GA consultant in the WMU department of MBCB, and Peggy Wallace (back row, second from left), missionary to Peru, were also on hand. The Flowood Church Youth Sign and Mime Group (below) demonstrate their ministry at GA Day.



GAs chase away bad weather blahs

By Helen Price

Despite dismal weather, Girls in Action (GAs) from across Mississippi made their way to Central Hills Assembly for GA Day on Sept. 26.

Over 400 GA's and their leaders experienced Acteens ministering through puppets; youth ministering through drama and signing; a young woman ministering through foreign missions; and another young woman ministering through humor and music.

The day was filled with excite-

ment as the girls moved from one area to the other, soaking up — not the weather, praise God — but his powerful presence, beautiful handiwork, body of believers, and instruments of service!

All the girls were inspired to return to their homes, churches, and communities to discover God's creative plans for ministries in their own lives.

Price is interim GA consultant, WMU department, MBCB.

Wildmon, Dobson warn against prime time TV season

If you haven't written or called to protest television's attack on morality, you have missed a golden opportunity.

James Dobson of Focus on the Family, in his October newsletter, observes that producers and directors in Hollywood have produced more shocking ways to depict infidelity, homosexuality, adolescent promiscuity, profanity, and gut-wrenching violence. Apparently the aim is to push this type of programming to the limit. No one complains, so the move is even stronger to shock and offend our sensibilities.

Dobson also mentions Don Wildmon of the American Family Association as the man who has done the most to convey this to the corporate world. He has been ridiculed, law-suited, hated, and attacked but Mississippian Wildmon, "just hangs in there, like a

bulldog fighting a grizzly. I thank God for Don and his entire team."

According to Wildmon's AFA Journal, Senator Robert Byrd spoke to the senate on drawing the line. Byrd said, "with each dose of vulgarity, profanity, pornography, promiscuity, assault, murder, and other violence, we become less and less uncomfortable with the crimes and vices, until at last our conscience loses the ability to object to them."

"The airwaves over which the network television broadcasts are beamed belong to me and millions of people like me who object to being assaulted by language and depictions of behavior that I would never countenance in my home. We are teaching our children that the basest level of human behavior is the norm of life, not an aberration."

A casual glance at the title arti-

cles in Wildmon's Tupelo-based AFA Journal reveals:

— "Anti-Christian plots, homosexual advocacy, teen sex, nudity, adultery explode on small screen in summer reruns, debuts of new series."

— "Proctor & Gamble, S.C. Johnson ads bring blasphemous prayer" (Golden Girls)

— "Profanity, sleaze, anti-Christian skit sponsored by Hyundai" (In Living Color)

— "Pro-homosexual theme is new ABC sitcom" (Arresting Behavior)

— "Toyota ads support NBC sitcom on homosexual lifestyle" (Cheers)

— "McDonalds top sponsor of teen sex theme on CBS campus drama" (Freshmen Dorm)

— "Sara Lee, J.C. Penney support illicit sex in NBC 'Nurses' sitcom"

— "Nike top sponsor in new sitcom with live-in lovers." (Martin)

So what can we do? First, get the facts from local sources, or order "Public School Sex Education: A Report," "A Guide to what one Person can do About Pornography," "Christianity and Humanism," "Pornography: A Report," and "Anti-Christian Bias in America," from AFA, Box 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803.

Protest often and remember the dollar speaks the loudest. K-Mart through Waldenbooks is one of the leading retailers of pornography. Levi Strauss cut financial support for the Boy Scouts because they would not allow homosexuals and atheists to be scoutmasters. Toyota is a leading sponsor of pro-homosexual programs on the four major TV networks.

In the spring of 1992 the top five offenders and their products were:

— Thompson Medical: Aspercreme, Cortizone 5, Dexatrim, Slimfast (1-800-521-7857)

— Helene Curtis Inc.: Atune, Degree deodorant, Finesse, and Suave (312) 661-0222

— Time-Warner: Fortune, Sports Illustrated, and People magazines, HBO, Gloria Vanderbilt jeans (212) 522-1212

— Anheuser-Busch: Budweiser beer, Colonial bread, Sea World Parks (800) 325-1488

— Little Caesars Inc.: pizza (1-800-438-4785)

Dobson declares cable TV to be a sewer line flowing into our living room. "You can always turn the TV off" is the flippant answer to all of this. That you can, even though the pollution settles in on the environment where you live. Friday, Nov. 13, is National "Turn off TV Day." Let's see a demonstration of people power. — GH

Homecomings

McAdams (Attala): Oct. 11; 11 a.m.; covered dish on grounds at noon; Jimmy Kettleman Jr., pastor.

Calvary, Braxton: Oct. 11; dinner in fellowship hall; Vance Iyess, speaker; Marcus Alexander, pastor.

Dry Creek, Florence: Oct. 11; 10:45 a.m.; James Shumaker, Laul, guest speaker; covered dish on grounds at noon; afternoon singing; Susan Clark, Jackson, guest singer; Dry Creek Church was established in 1845; Jerry Glass, pastor.

Glading (Amite): Oct. 11; The tribulations will sing in afternoon; Charles Kirkfield, pastor.

East Salem, Leakesville: Oct. 11; Sunday, School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; John Henry, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; singing, 2 p.m.; Stacy Douglas, Leakesville, music; Lovan Smith, pastor.

Holly Springs (Marion): Oct. 11; 11 a.m.; Rickey Gray, former pastor, now pastor of Flowood Church, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Sunshine Trio with Sherrod Rayburn, guest singers; Charles E. Williams, pastor.

Siloam, West Point: Oct. 11; 11 a.m.; Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; Avery Jones, pastor.

Damascus, Flora: Oct. 11; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; afternoon service featuring J.B. and Glendora Sherman and the Central Baptist Trio from Yazoo City; William "Sonny" Bradshaw, pastor.

Mount Pisgah, Enid: Oct. 11; 10:45 homecoming; Sunday School, 10 a.m. worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; no night service; Aubrey Martin, Richland, guest speaker; praise, gospel groups, guest singers; Ken Pegram, interim pastor.

McCarley (Carroll): Oct. 11; 10:30 a.m.; Norris Corley, guest speaker; covered dish at noon; Clyde Schiele, pastor.

Fellowship, Houston: Oct. 11; regular morning worship; lunch, noon; afternoon singing; Bobby Lynn Brock, pastor, speaker; The Tracemen, music.

Clear Branch (Rankin): Oct.

11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing; Greg Johnston, guest speaker; Tim McCaffrey, pastor.

Lilly Orchard, Helena: Oct. 11; dinner on the grounds; Eddie Furby, guest speaker; Lilly Orchard Miracle Singers, music; Dale Thrasher, pastor.

Ovis Fairley dies at 64

Ovis E. Fairley, 64, of Orlando, Fla., died of a heart attack Sept. 18 at Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, Ala. Services were held Sept. 21 in Greenwood.

He was serving as mission pastor for the College Park Baptist Church in Orlando and headed the John Young Mission.

Fairley was born in Leaf and was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Survivors include wife, Virginia Fairley of Orlando; three daughters, Ellen Anderson of Lompock, Calif., Carol McFarland of Jackson, and Jacqueline Ingram of Spokane, Wash.; two sons, Peter Fairley of Decatur and Timothy Fairley of Tupelo; 10 grandchildren; and two brothers.



Fairley



Thirty members of Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, spent a week in July at Victoria, Mexico, where the days were filled with restoration of an old orphanage and the nights were utilized for revival services. Participants include (back row, from left) Charles Parsons, Larry McMurry, Kaleb Bumpous, Jeremy Delony, (fourth row, from left) Vicki Winehill, Joy Delony, Brenda Parsons, Dot Fitzpatrick, Chris Wright, Cathy McMurry, (third row) Jimmy Ferguson, Debbie Ferguson, Sharon Wright, Brenda Bumpous, Shelia Delony, Marlin Germany, Ann Wilson, (second row, from left) Butch Lewis, Jim Ferguson, Jeannie Teague, Hazel Monrief, Nancy Germany, Tom Maness, (front row, from left) Kirt Germany, Cindy Franks, Susan McMurry, Pat Boyd, Shelly Maness, and pastor Steve Delony. Not pictured is Kevin Ponds.

CRISWELL

From page 3

be undone with an apology," the former staff member said. "There's no chance of his coming back without splitting that church right down the middle."

Spokesman Harris would not predict the church's action or Gregory's response, but neither would he disallow any possibility.

"We're praying that God is going to do something unusual, beyond what we could work out on our own," he told ABP.

Druin is associate editor, Texas Baptist Standard; Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.

STATEMENT OF CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION			
For the year ending _____			
1. Total number of members	2. Total number of churches	3. Total number of churches	4. Total number of churches
5. Total number of churches	6. Total number of churches	7. Total number of churches	8. Total number of churches
9. Total number of churches	10. Total number of churches	11. Total number of churches	12. Total number of churches
13. Total number of churches	14. Total number of churches	15. Total number of churches	16. Total number of churches
17. Total number of churches	18. Total number of churches	19. Total number of churches	20. Total number of churches
21. Total number of churches	22. Total number of churches	23. Total number of churches	24. Total number of churches
25. Total number of churches	26. Total number of churches	27. Total number of churches	28. Total number of churches
29. Total number of churches	30. Total number of churches	31. Total number of churches	32. Total number of churches
33. Total number of churches	34. Total number of churches	35. Total number of churches	36. Total number of churches
37. Total number of churches	38. Total number of churches	39. Total number of churches	40. Total number of churches
41. Total number of churches	42. Total number of churches	43. Total number of churches	44. Total number of churches
45. Total number of churches	46. Total number of churches	47. Total number of churches	48. Total number of churches
49. Total number of churches	50. Total number of churches	51. Total number of churches	52. Total number of churches
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61. Total number of churches	62. Total number of churches	63. Total number of churches	64. Total number of churches
65. Total number of churches	66. Total number of churches	67. Total number of churches	68. Total number of churches
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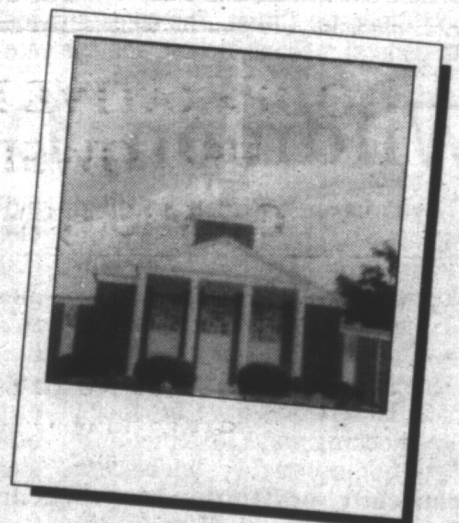
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Faith, Starkville: Oct. 11-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., noon lunch and 7 p.m.; Wed., 7 p.m.; Anis Shorrosh, evangelist; Ira Pollard, music; Blaine Allen, pastor.

Nineteenth Avenue, Hattiesburg: Oct. 11-14; Jimmy W. Coleman, Arbor Church, Pell City, Ala., evangelist; Phillip Willis, Baton Rouge, La., music; services, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Grady B. Parker, pastor.

Beacon. Petal: Oct. 11-14; Hardy Denham, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, music; Keith Manuel, pastor.

New Hope (Leake): Oct. 11-14; Sunday, homecoming, Carlton Jones will be speaker for 11 a.m. service, lunch served in fellowship hall; revival, Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kim Wolverton, pastor, Mount Carmel, preaching; Bobby Barfoot, pastor.

First Church, Sharon, Laurel: Oct. 11-15; Don Breland, Barnesville, Ga., evangelist; Floyd Grice, Laurel, music; Sun., 11

a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Nelson J. Crozier, pastor.

First Church, Marion: Oct. 18-21; Bobby Williamson, Pearl, evangelist; Everett Solie, Leeds, Ala., music; services 7 p.m. nightly; Walter M. Blackman, pastor.

Swiftwater, Greenville: Oct. 11-15; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., noon and 7 p.m.; Jon Doler, Leland, evangelist; Gene Greene, Lake Village, Ark., music; Gene Foshee, pastor.

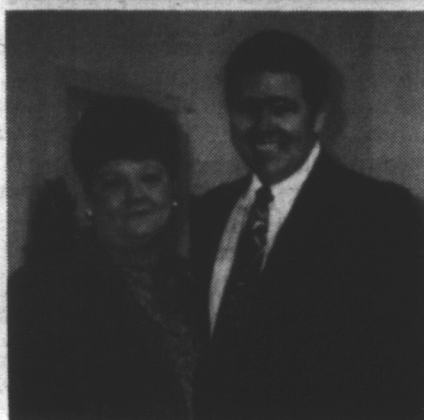
Bethel, Columbus: Oct. 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; nursery provided; Gordon Sansing, Vicksburg, evangelist; David Brooks, pastor.

Masterlife workshop cancelled

The Masterlife workshop scheduled for Oct. 12-16 in Meridian, has been cancelled for lack of sufficient response, according to Mose Dangerfield, director of the convention board's Discipleship Training Department.

The next workshop will be scheduled for late January in Louisville, with attendance at both weekends required for certification.

Names in the News



Calvary Church, Durant, recently honored its pastor, Jerry Smith, and his wife Spin with an appreciation day. Special guests were family members L.H. and Martha Camp; Elmo and Louise Smith; Ruby Smith; Anna Kisner; Tommy and Kathy Smith; and their children Kelly and Adam.

Ethel Johnson was honored Aug. 30 by Shiloh Church,



Johnson

Lawrence Association, upon her retirement as church pianist, a position she has held for over 60 years. The church paid for her high school piano lessons.

Mrs. Vestal Rayburn was honored Sept. 27 by the adult ladies Sunday School class of West Union Church, Carriere, for 54 years of teaching. The class presented her with a plaque and a book of letters; the congregation presented her with roses.

Harmony Church, Laurel, ordained its minister of music, Bob Barger, Sept. 20. He has been in music ministry for 16 years, the last two at Harmony. Also, Michael Morgan, minister of youth, was licensed to preach. He currently attends William Carey College and has been at Harmony since February 1992.

Former minister of music dies

Mark Walker, former minister of music at First Church, Winona, died suddenly of a heart attack Sept. 29 at the age of 39.

At the time of his death, he was working with the Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Smackover, Ark. Services were held in El Dorado, Ark.

Walker had also served at First Church, Leakesville, and Riverside Church, Pascagoula.



First Church, Raleigh, recently honored Bobby Hankins on her 50th consecutive year as pianist and organist in Mississippi Baptist churches, as well as director of youth, children, and adult choirs. She was given a dozen roses, a plaque, and congratulations from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Trustees of New Orleans Seminary recently granted tenure to Paul E. Robertson and approved his sabbatical study during the 1992-93 academic year. The native of Jackson is associate professor of theology and editor of the faculty journal, *The Theological Educator*. He will be visiting scholar at Regent's Park College, Oxford University, England, and a research fellow at Union Seminary, Richmond, Va.

Staff Changes

Derma Church, Calhoun Association, has called Billy Nelson as minister of music and youth. A native of Pontotoc, he is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and previously served Telestials Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Bethel Church, Monticello, has called Janie Baylis of New Orleans as minister of education. A native of Tupelo, she is a graduate of William Carey College and presently attends New Orleans Seminary.



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Clyde A. Williams has retired after 43 years in the pastorate, the last 25 at Crawford Church, Mobile, Ala. He has pastored in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, and has participated in revivals and evangelistic crusades in a number of foreign countries. He is available for supplies, revivals, and Bible studies. He can be reached at 4951 Stokley Lane, Semmes, Al. 36575, telephone (205) 649-3601.

Philip Cooper, a native of New Albany, has been called as pastor of Pine Grove, Tippah Association. A graduate of Blue Mountain College, he is presently a student at Mid-America Seminary. His previous place of service was Holly Church, Alcorn Association.

M. Lee Ferrell recently retired after 40 years in the pastorate. For the last 20 years he has served Webb and Brazil churches in Tallahatchie Association. Previously, he served Alta Woods Church, Jackson, as associate pastor and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as associate in the Brotherhood Department in Royal Ambassador work. He and can be reached at 1836 Smallwood Street, Jackson 39212, (601) 373-0467.



Ferrell

Mark Best, former minister of education and youth at First, Hazlehurst, is now Baptist Student Union director at Central Michigan University and pastor of Isabella Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Bay Area Association.

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, has called Joseph Hanna Jr. as minister of youth. Hanna is a native of Ocean Springs, and previously served Unity Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Blackwater Church, Daleville, has called Doug Phillips as pastor, effective Oct. 1. The Clarksdale native was educated at Blue Mountain College, and previously served First Church, Clifton, Tenn.

Immanuel Church, Greenwood, has called Patrick Houlihan as minister of music. The New Orleans native was educated at Florida State University and the University of Mississippi.

Puckett Church has called Jason Ivy of Quitman as minister of music and youth. He was educated at the University of Southern Mississippi and previously served at Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County.

Immanuel Church, Greenwood, has called Danny Irvin of Sidon as minister of youth. He received his education at Mississippi Delta Community College.

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Just for the Record



Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg, recently held a GA and Acteen recognition service. The first and second grade girls who received badges are pictured, left to right, top photo: first row, Susan Whittenburg, Bethany Cunningham, Brittany White; second row, Kimberly Dowe, Zaye Sanders, Catherine Bryant, Laura Beth Smith. The third and fourth grade girls who received badges are pictured, second photo: first row, Molly Gough, Lindsay Dallriva, Leah Smith, Dara Goree; second row, Anya Henry, Amy Ragen, Robin Dowe, Brandy Jaskott. Fifth and sixth grade girls who received badges are pictured left to right, third photo: front row, Ashley Bryant, Nadya Elqadi, Danielle Cunningham; second row, Lauren Blackwell, Candace Moore, Jennifer Ragen. The Acteens who were recognized are pictured, bottom photo, left to right: first row, Rachel Moore, Krissy Oldenburg, Ami Hensarling, Angela Wells, Shannon White; second row, Brooke Rainer, Terri Tustain, Ashley White, Laura Wolfe; third row, Candace Alexander, Meredith Beach, Lynsey Moore, and Crickett Oldenburg.

Sturgis Church recently held ground-breaking ceremonies for its new \$75,000 education building. Building committee members who participated in the event are pictured, left to right: Jimmy Clardy, Sally Jackson, Gene Collins, Bobby McClelland, Sarah Long, Bill Malone, Mildred Quinn, and Steve Lammons, pastor.



Immanuel Church, Greenwood, will observe its 25th anniversary Oct. 11 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Former pastor Horace Thomas of New Albany will be the guest speaker. The Johnson Trio of Greenville will present special music in the afternoon, following a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall. Dennis McKay is pastor.

New Hope Church, Gulfport, will hold a lay renewal Oct. 16-18. Dub Herring of Picayune will coordinate the weekend. W.L. Chappuis is pastor.

Mt. Pleasant Church will move to its new worship facilities Oct. 11. The new building will double the seating capacity of the present worship facility, and allow the church to return to a schedule of one Sunday morning service. A noon meal will follow the morning service on Oct. 11, and dedication will be held at 1:30 p.m. "Three for One," a trio from Arkansas, will present special singing in the afternoon. Eddie Holmes is pastor.

Gaston Church, Booneville, will hold a dedication service for the renovations on its existing education space and for its new educational building Oct. 18. Homecoming services will also be held that day. Ronny Robinson, executive director of the Baptist Children's Village, will be the guest speaker. Ben S. Parman is pastor.

First Church, Water Valley, has passed a resolution in honor of the retirement of its pastor, M. Guy Reedy. The church commends him for 22 years of service at Water Valley and for his long tenure as a trustee of the Baptist Children's Village. The Children's Village campus near Water Valley is named Reedy Acres in his honor.



The WMU of East Booneville Church, Booneville, recently had a garden tea party to acquaint and re-acquaint the women of the church and to introduce new members to the WMU. Jim Holcomb is pastor; Ann Englund is WMU director.



One hundred eleven people enrolled in Vacation Bible School at Calvary Chapel, Parchman, this summer. The mission church, sponsored by Parks Church, Glendora, has grown to 26 members since its beginning in 1990. Mississippi Baptists have contributed to this work each year through the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Pictured above are VBS workers from First Church, Boyle, and Parks, Glendora, in front of a bus donated by Ruleville Church and Sunflower Association.

Robert Jones, deacon, dies at 78

Robert Jones, 78, deacon and charter member of Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg, died Sept. 11. Funeral services were held Sept. 13 at Bellevue Church.

He is survived by his wife, Carra, and two sons.

BAD BET

From page 2

ary 1989 issue of *Nation's Business*, 10% of those who gamble will become compulsive gamblers.

Should the State of Mississippi really be a "pusher" of lottery tickets — advertising on TV, radio, buses, and road signs? Surely this will send the wrong message to our children.

The best way for people to stop the spread of all kinds of gambling

is to vote "NO" on the lottery. This will be the first time that the people of all the counties in the state get a shot at voicing their opinion on gambling. If we do not defeat the lottery and show the legislature that we care about the future of our state, then I predict the legislature will push for other forms of gambling in our state. It is time to say "NO" to more gambling, particularly state-sponsored and -operated gambling.

Is this a moral issue as well as an economic issue? If the lottery is aimed at the poor and less educated,

if the state sponsors advertising and pushes it, if it makes compulsive gamblers out of some of the participants, and if it takes food, clothing, and school supplies from children in the families of people who play the lottery, it is a moral issue.

It's just not worth the gamble. Please vote "NO".

Alexander is a Cleveland attorney, former President Pro-Tempore of the Mississippi Senate, and chairman of Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics (CARE).

Life and Work

Demonstrate commitment



By Milton Burd
1 Timothy 3:1-15

The Holy Spirit empowers Christians with spiritual gifts. These gifts are to be used in ministry for God and his glory. There should be such a variety of gifts within each church that no area of ministry should be neglected or undone. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:11 that "it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person."

Paul also spoke of spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4. Among those gifts mentioned were apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. In writing to Timothy, Paul described the bishop, the deacon, and the church itself. As we seek to understand these roles, we are able to better understand the ministry of the church. As we study the qualities of pastor and deacon, let us understand that these same qualities are consistent with the expectations for all believers. They are not reserved for pastors or deacons only. Let's explore these qualities in 1 Timothy 3.

An affirmation of the work of serving (v. 1). Those who are called to serve are called to a noble task. Paul commended all who aspired to the office of pastor (overseer, bishop, elder). To become a pastor was (and is) a serious decision. Paul gave numerous qualifications for a man to meet if he expected to serve as a pastor. These are listed in verses 2-7.

A description of overseers in service (vv. 2-7). Persons who serve as pastors are to exhibit a lifestyle of high personal morality that expresses respect and concern for others rather than one of hostility and selfishness. Paul addressed this in verses 2-5 when he mentioned: "above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money." He must also manage his family well and see that his children obey. All Christians should seek these qualities of conduct and character in their lives, too.

Paul continued in verses 6-7 to describe persons of a mature faith who avoid reproach at all costs. Paul mentioned that they must not be recent converts, because as recent converts they would lack the spiritual maturity that is required of a pastor. The final qualification has to do with the reputation of a pastor in the community. Paul stated that a pastor must have a good reputation with outsiders. A pastor (all Christian leaders) should earn the respect of those outside the church. The world is waiting to say "I told you so" when a Christian leader fails to live up to Christian principles. We remember all too well the fall of some TV evangelists in recent years.

A description of deacons in service (vv. 8-13). Paul began his description of the qualities of deacons with the word "likewise." This word indicates the similarities between the qualifications for pastors and deacons (all Christians). The word "deacon" comes from the Greek language and means "servant." The role of the deacon is to serve, minister, and to be a spiritual example for others. Through faithful service, a deacon brings honor to the office and not to himself. The office of deacon is not an honorary title or job. Paul lists the qualifications of deacons in verses 8-12. Review these verses and also verses 2-7 to find the similarities between deacon and pastor. Space does not permit a listing nor a discussion on how these qualifications are interpreted. There is a wide range of views and practices among Baptists today.

Verse 13 indicates that those who serve well grow in faith in Jesus Christ. This is true for pastors, deacons, and all Christians. One does not have to be a pastor or deacon to serve and grow. Think of all the ministries within the church that depend on faithful Christians for leadership and service.

Serving in the household of faith (vv. 14-18). The conduct of persons in the household of God reflects on the church. The difficulty of our Christian lifestyle today is that non-Christians see no difference in our lifestyle and theirs. Our lives are a reflection on the church and our faith. As Christians, we have an obligation to live a committed lifestyle. Breakthrough comes from such commitment.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

Uniform

Choosing a leader



By Margaret H. Rogers
1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel
2:1-7; 5: 1-5

The authorship of 2 Samuel is uncertain. The book covers approximately 40 years which comprise the bulk of David's reign as king. In 1 Samuel, the story is told of Samuel's anointing the young shepherd boy, David, as the second king of Israel. From that day of anointing, the Spirit of God came upon David to prepare him for his role of king. David referred in the Psalms to his mother as the "handmaid of the Lord." The inference from that description is that David had a godly mother. One finds in David the characteristics of a man who had been influenced to know and trust God.

David's life had its ups and downs, the kinds of experiences in which he seemed to lose his faith, where his faith wavered or weakened. But there were other times when his faith seemed completely renewed. A view of David's life reveals a man who sinned deeply. He knew and repented, and his Psalms reflect the depth of his emotions.

David anointed at Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-7). After the death of Saul, David located his capital at Hebron, south of the land of Palestine. Actually he was king only of the southern part of the land as he had been anointed by the men of Judah. David revealed his magnanimous spirit even to those who injured him. In this scripture, David showed his kindness to the men of Jabesh-Gilead who were kind enough to give Saul an honorable burial. David's reign at Hebron lasted seven and one-half years before his reign over all Israel began.

David anointed king of Israel (2 Samuel 5:1-5). During the reign of David in Hebron, Ishbosheth, son of Saul, reigned over Israel in the north. There was constant warfare between these two rival kings, but the kingdom of Judah gradually gained the ascendancy as evidenced in 2 Samuel 3:1: "David waxed stronger and stronger, but the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker."

After Saul's kingdom had fallen, Israel assembled in great numbers at Hebron and David was anointed as king over all the nation. He was 30 years old at this time. His total reign was 40 years, 33 years over all Israel. His change of the capital to Jerusalem showed great wisdom.

Many elements entered into the success of David's reign, including the moving of the capital, his foreign policy, and his home policy of centralization. David brought the Ark of the Covenant and placed it on Mt. Zion to center all worship there. This action united the people and made more powerful David's authority over them. He gathered materials and stored riches with which to build the temple later.

He acted with wise consideration for the rights of his subjects and in every way, sought to promote their happiness. David did not oppress his subjects with heavy taxes. He was a great organizer and made vast internal improvements. His was a literary reign because he wrote many of the Psalms, some of which are the finest poems in the Bible.

David's reign was also a religious one. He was a deeply religious man, one especially distinguished from any other kings by his faith in God, his loyalty, and gratitude for his blessings. He manifested the Spirit of God in the kindness he showed his enemies as well as his friends.

David was a warrior of unprecedented bravery, a military genius, statesman, poet, and musician. As a king, he was without equal in the life of his nation. He led the nation to its pinnacle of power. David was known as "a man after God's own heart." He acknowledged his sin, his need for God, and repented for the sins of his life. The scars of David's sins were in his heart all through his life, and though God forgave him, David paid for his sins. He was used of God to help accomplish his eternal purpose, for the Messiah was of the "house and lineage of David."

David's generous, magnanimous spirit, and kindness is exemplary for Christians today. His positive attributes and actions should challenge Christians today to share their abundance with those who hunger on this World Hunger Day.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

Bible Book

Jewish guilt for sin



By R. David Raddin
Romans 2:11-13, 28-3:6, 9-11,
19-20

How easily we hear about the sin of others. What "they" should do is evident. When the focus changes to our sin, though, defenses go up.

Paul had been writing about "them," the Gentiles. Now he addresses "us," his own people, the Jews. He makes clear that every person is guilty of sin.

Judgment: without law or in the law (2:11-13). Verse 11 in the King James Version reads, "For there is no respect of persons with God." The New International Version translates the verse, "For God does not show favoritism." The words "respect" and "favoritism" do not mean that God does not respect personal dignity, but rather mean that he does not show special treatment for some over others.

Verse 12 goes on to say, "All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law." The gentiles who did not have access to the law of Moses were still accountable before God through the inner law of conscience. "Indeed, when gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them" (2:14-15). J.W. McGorman, in *Romans: Everyman's Gospel*, says,

"Whether judged by the written law or by the law of conscience, God will judge the secrets of both Jews and gentiles in the light of the gospel of Christ on the last day."

We read in verse 13, "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous." Jesus spoke in Matthew 7:24-27 about those who only hear his teaching and those who hear and respond. The Jews who have the law are responsible for their sins, just as all people are. Having the law is not enough. When a person realizes from the law the need for Christ and accepts him, then that person is made right in the eyes of God.

The real Jew (2:28-29). Paul says that a person is a real Jew "if he is one inwardly" (v. 29). The term "Jew" comes from the word "Judah," meaning "praise." The REAL Jew, then, is one whose praise is "not from men, but from God" (v. 29).

The real Jew is one who has personal relationship with God. The relationship is inward, resulting in outward praise. Outward praise or worship without a personal relationship with Christ is a false front and a false hope. To the Pharisees, Jesus said, "On the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness" (Matt. 23:28). Jesus calls us through his Spirit to accept him as Lord and Savior.

Defense of God's justice (3:1-6). "What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew...?" (v. 1). To the question Paul replied, "Much in every way" (v. 2). The Jews were the people of the covenant. Paul, though, like the prophets, could not be silent while for some the motions of religion became all of religion. The covenant relationship was not meant only to bring God to the Jews. God's covenant was meant to be for all people through the Jews.

The human predicament (3:9-11). "...Jews and gentiles alike are all under sin. There is no one righteous, not even one" (vv. 9-10). No person is without sin; therefore, every person is in need of God's salvation through Christ.

The whole world answerable to God (3:19-20). No human action can make a person right in the eyes of God. "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin" (v. 20). Will you who know the Lord proclaim Jesus to a lost and dying world? Will you who need Jesus accept him today as your Savior and Lord?

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

MC professors share English, gospel with Chinese students

By Tim Nicholas

ough China is officially closed to missionary efforts, a group of Mississippi Baptists found themselves working as "pioneers of lifestyle evangelism" with many opportunities to share their faith, according to Ted Snazelle, one of the participants.

The group led an oral English workshop, July 13-Aug. 7, at Jiangnan University in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province.

Snazelle, professor of biology at Mississippi College which sponsored the trip, said that the lifestyle evangelism included, for him, a dramatic event. Just before the workshop ended the teachers held a Christmas party. They decorated an evergreen tree and Kaye Wilson, assistant professor of nursing at MC, read the Christmas

story from Matthew and Luke.

Others in the group were Martha Anderson and Judy Faggard of Hernando; Cathleen Parker of Prentiss; Mittie Kay Smith and Gail and Fred Jabour of Clinton; and Lilchy Huffman of Manassas, Va.

Snazelle said one witnessing technique was the cross cultural exchange where the Chinese explained their holidays such as spring festival and Chinese New Year, and the Americans taught the secular and religious sides of Easter and Christmas.

The group taught about "the significance of the birth of Jesus our Savior," said Snazelle. And for Easter they taught about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. "Christianity is the only religion

that worships a risen savior," said Snazelle to his students.

Wilson said that one university official asked her how often she went to church. When she explained, he said, "So, you're a Christian? I've found in my dealings that with Christians I get more help and understanding than anyone else."

The classes consisted of people ages 12 and up, including three groups of chemical engineers. The university had advertised that the workshop would be taught by American teachers.

The people were "very open to learning and to knowing about Christianity," said Wilson. "Most have no religion."

"We found them to be very loving and very generous... very kind," said Snazelle. "They found fascinating the fact that we would laugh and smile."

Added Wilson, "I had them write a final essay. Most spoke to the fact that it had been fun."

This was Snazelle's second and Wilson's first trip to China. Wilson taught nursing for two months in the Gaza Strip for the Foreign Mission Board. She was in Iraq last year for three weeks doing nursing with Kurdish refugees. And has led nursing students on mission trips to Puerto Rico and to Mexico.

Both MC professors want to go back to China. Already they are recruiting a team for next year. They would like for volunteers to have had the Teaching English as a Second Language course, but the volunteers don't actually have to be teachers, "just communicators," said Wilson. And Wilson is trying to work with the Chinese on some medical exchanges. For details on the English teaching project, phone Wilson at (601) 925-3384.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.



MBMC offers cancer help

Free breast self-exam classes and a program on "Breast Cancer: Early Detection and Prevention," are being offered by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center to promote breast cancer awareness during October. Gerry Ann Houston, MBMC oncologist, will speak on the early detection and prevention of breast cancer at MBMC Oct. 19. The hospital will present free breast self-exam classes Oct. 9 at noon; Oct. 16, 1 p.m.; and Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Pictured with the hospital's new Bennett MF-150 mammography machine, left to right, are Clifton Hester, medical director of MBMC's outpatient radiology department; Judith Greaves, one of MBMC's five registered mammographers; and Houston. For more information, call (601) 968-1712.

Baptists find inspiration in loaves and fishes story

By Lucille Bailey

On Oct. 11 Mississippi Baptists will be observing World Hunger Day and hopefully every individual in each church will make a worthy contribution to this cause. Hunger was very important to Jesus because he inspired Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to tell the story when Jesus took the little boy's lunch and fed more than 5,000 people.

So far as we are told there was only one mother who prepared a lunch for her little boy.

From reading the story we know that there was only one little boy who had a lunch.

When the disciples told Jesus to send the people home at the end of the day, the Bible reveals only one disciple that Jesus consulted. Jesus knew what he would do but he asked Phillip how to handle the situation.

So far as the inspired words of the writers tell the story Jesus only had one plan. Jesus did not have Plan B to fall back on in case Plan A didn't work. He only had one plan.

There was only one person who saw the little boy with the lunch. When Andrew told Jesus that he had seen a little boy with a lunch, Jesus put Plan A to work.

Only one person went to look for the little boy with the lunch. When Andrew found the little boy, he returned to Jesus and gave him the lunch.

So far as the story goes, there was only one person to bless the lunch.

The little boy did not go home hungry because 12 baskets of fragments were picked up after everyone had eaten.

So far as we know, the average per capita giving of church members for World Hunger is 38 cents. Now this should make us hang our heads in shame. This story tells what happens one at a time. So if everyone will give to World Hunger, then those who are starving can be fed one at the time.

Bailey lives in State Line.



Ted Snazelle, left, Mississippi College professor of biology, and Kaye Wilson, right, MC assistant nursing professor, are shown with Cheng Zhixiang, president of Jiangnan University in Wuxi, China. The two Mississippians were among seven who volunteered as oral English workshop leaders at the university this summer.

71-year-old leads hundreds to Christ through CWT witness

By James Dotson

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. (BP) — Richie Dzio got a knock on his door on April 21, 1985, that changed his life.

A Christian Witness Training (CWT) team from Gainesville's New Hope Baptist Church came by to explain the gospel to Dzio — a nominal Catholic at the time — in a way he had never heard before. He liked the concept so much, in fact, he not only accepted his own personal relationship with Christ but also now leads about 100 people to Christ each year as a staff member at New Hope. He is an outreach assistant, with sole responsibilities for visiting people in

their homes and sharing the gospel using methods learned through CWT.

"It's the most beautiful thing you'll ever see," Dzio said of the experience of helping someone come to know Christ. "And you can become as addicted to that as you'll ever get addicted to drugs or alcohol."

Dzio, 71, shared his testimony recently with participants in a four-day CWT National Seminar at New Hope to train ministers or laymen who will then lead their churches in establishing the full 13-week course.

After accepting Christ, Dzio said he began visiting with oth-

ers from the church that summer. Then, in the fall, he took CWT himself and has never stopped using it since. He is now a certified pastor-leader, eligible to teach the program to others.

"I made my mind up that I would never become so tired and so busy that I couldn't take 10 minutes of my life to go witness to someone," he said.

"I feel there is enough information here to give them the right foundation, then as they get baptized and join the church, they begin to understand more about it," Dzio said.

Dotson is associate editor, Georgia CHRISTIAN INDEX.

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